

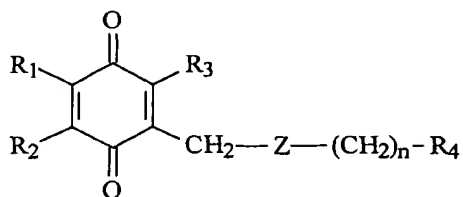
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-41 and 53-73. (Canceled)

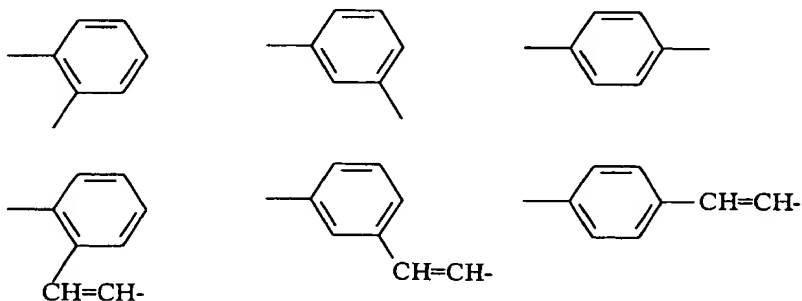
Claim 44. (Allowed) A method for treatment of inflammatory diseases comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a benzoquinone derivative represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein

R₁, R₂ and R₃ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbons, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbons;

R₄ is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxymethyl group, an alkyl group, or a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated; Z is

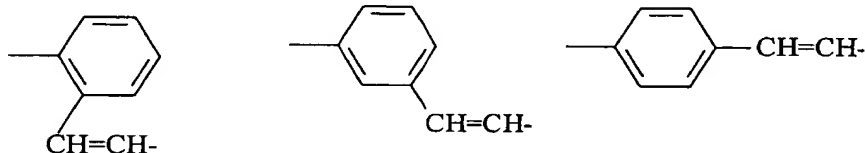


and, n is an integer from 0 to 6, or its hydroquinone form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 45. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein R_1 and R_2 are a hydrogen atom, a methyl group, or a methoxy group.

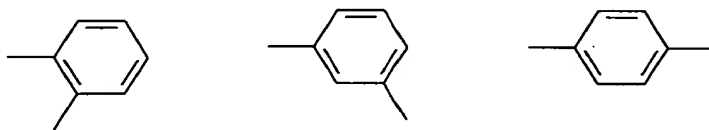
Claim 46. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein R_3 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

Claim 47. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein Z is



and n is an integer 0.

Claim 48. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein Z is



and n is an integer 1, 2, or 3.

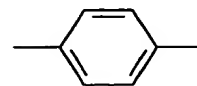
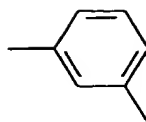
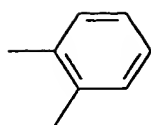
Claim 49. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein R_4 is a group -
 COOR_5 wherein R_5 is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group having 1 to 8

carbons, an optionally substituted phenyl group, or an optionally substituted aralkyl group having 7 to 11 carbons.

Claim 50. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein R_4 is a group - $CONR_6R_7$ wherein R_6 and R_7 are each independently a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted alkyl group having 1 to 8 carbons, an optionally substituted bicyclic unsaturated or partially saturated hydrocarbon ring group having 9 to 11 carbons, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group, an optionally substituted phenyl group, an optionally substituted aralkyl group having 7 to 11 carbons, or a heteroaryl- C_1 - C_3 -alkyl group, or R_6 and R_7 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, represent a heterocyclic group which may further contain a nitrogen, oxygen, and/or sulfur atom.

Claim 51. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein R_4 is a group - $CONR_6R_7$ wherein R_6 and R_7 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, represent a 5- to 10-membered optionally substituted, nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group which may contain, in addition to the carbon and nitrogen atom, 1 to 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of a nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur atom, the carbon atom on said cyclic group being optionally a ketone form or the sulfur atom on said cyclic group being optionally an oxide form.

Claim 52. (Allowed) The method according to claim 44 wherein R_1 and R_2 are a methyl group or a methoxy group; R_3 is a methyl group; R_4 is a carboxyl group which is optionally esterified or amidated; Z is



and n is an integer 1, 2, or 3.